

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 AID-05 TRSE-00 IO-13 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

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O 270936Z JAN 77

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5536

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS JOHANNESBURG 0160

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: IVOR RICHARD'S PRESS STATEMENT OF JANUARY 24

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF CABLE SENT TO BRITISH FCO NEWS DEPARTMENT FROM IVOR RICHARD'S PARTY IN JOHANNESBURG, GIVING TRANSCRIPT OF RICHARD'S COMMENTS TO THE PRESS IN SALISBURY ON JANUARY 24, 1977. RICHARD THOUGHT HE HAD PROVIDED A COPY TO US EARLIER AND BELIEVES IT SHOULD ALREADY BE IN WASHINGTON. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NO RECORD OF IT HERE.

2. BEGIN TEXT.

MR. RICHARD SPOKE IN SALISBURY TODAY ON THE FOLLOWING LINES:

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AS YOU KNOW, I SAW MR. SMITH AND HIS COLLEAGUES AGAIN THIS MORNING. MR. SMITH TOLD ME THAT OUR PROPOSALS WERE NOT ACCEPTABLE AS A BASIS FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATION AND DISCUSSION. HE SAID THAT HE STOOD BY THE PROPOSALS OUTLINED IN HIS STATEMENT OF 24 SEPTEMBER, WHICH AS YOU KNOW, THE OTHER PARTIES COULD NOT ACCEPT.

MR SMITH IS, OF COURSE, PERFECTLY ENTITLED TO TAKE THIS ATTITUDE. SO FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED, HOWEVER, IT IS A TRAGIC AND FATEFUL DECISION. OUR PROPOSALS HAD BEEN ACCEPTED AS A BASIS FOR NEGOTIATION BY ALL THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS, AND BY ALL THE NATIONALIST DELEGATIONS. THEY WERE ENDORSED BY THE UNITED STATES AND BY ALL OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES WITH WHOM WE HAVE DISCUSSED THEM. THE PRIME MINISTER OF SOUTH AFRICA WAS ANXIOUS THAT NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD CONTINUE, AND THAT A SETTLEMENT SHOULD BE REACHED. MR. SMITH ALONE HAS REJECTED OUR PROPOSALS AS A BASIS FOR DISCUSSION, AND HE BEARS A HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT MAY HAPPEN. AT THE MOMENT IT IS HARD TO SEE WHERE WE GO FROM HERE. FIGHTING WILL GO ON, AND SANCTIONS WILL NOT BE LIFTED. THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY BOTH BLACK OR WHITE WILL SUFFER FURTHER. THE OUTCOME IS DIFFICULT TO FORESEE.

I WOULD LIKE TO SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT OUR OWN ROLE IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS. OUR SOLE AIM HAS BEEN TO TRY TO NEGOTIATE AN HONOURABLE SETTLEMENT WHICH WOULD LEAD TO A PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO MAJORITY RULE AND INDEPENDENCE. WE HAVE NO OTHER INTEREST IN THIS MATTER. RHODESIA BELONGS TO RHODESIANS, AND WE HAVE NOT SOUGHT TO INTERFERE IN YOUR AFFAIRS. WE WERE ASKED TO HELP, AND WE HAVE TRIED TO HELP. OUR PROPOSALS WERE AND ARE A GENUINE AND SINCERE EFFORT TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES, TO STOP THE WAR, TO NEGOTIATE A PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO MAJORITY RULE, TO ASSIST IN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THIS COUNTRY, AND TO PROVIDE ASSURANCES TO WHITE RHODESIANS THAT THERE WAS AN IMPORTANT AND CONTINUING ROLE FOR THEM TO PLAY.

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IN THIS COUNTRY BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER INDEPENDENCE, WE BELIEVE THAT OUR PROPOSALS ARE AS VALID AND REASONABLE NOW AS THEY WERE BEFORE I RETURNED TO SALISBURY.

I SHOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED TO SEE ME ON MY TWO VISITS TO RHODESIA, AND WHO HAVE TOLD ME OF THEIR HOPES AND THEIR FEARS. I AM SINCERELY GRATEFUL TO THEM ALL. I HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED BY WHAT I HAVE HEARD AND SEEN OF THE GREAT POTENTIAL AND FUTURE OF THIS COUNTRY IF ONLY WE CAN OBTAIN A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. WE WANT TO SEE RHODESIA TAKE ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE ONCE AGAIN IN THE WORLD COMMUNITY. I AM SAD AND APPREHENSIVE ABOUT THE FUTURE. BUT I STILL HOPE THAT WISER COUNSELS WILL PREVAIL, AND THAT THE DOOR HAS NOT BEEN FINALLY CLOSED TO A SETTLEMENT WHICH SATISFIES THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF ALL. BRITAIN REMAINS IN LAW THE ONLY COUNTRY WHICH CAN GRANT INDEPENDENCE TO RHODESIA. WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO DISCHARGE AND WE SHALL DISCHARGE IT. WE ARE DESPERATELY ANXIOUS THAT RHODESIA SHOULD BE BROUGHT

OUT OF THE ISOLATION IN WHICH IT FINDS ITSELF TODAY. END
TEXT.
JOHNSON

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Sent Date: 27-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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